GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1473
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
DEAF PEOPLE
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any estimate has been made of the deaf people in the country by the National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the percentage of defects estimated to be congenital;

(c) the other causes for deafness from non-congenital causes;

(d) whether any media awareness campaign has been launched to help the public; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The causes for non-congenital deafness/hearing impairment include perinatal infections, high fever and convulsions, infectious diseases (e.g. whooping cough, mumps, measles, syphilis, meningitis, viral fever, T.B.), intake of ototoxic drugs, acoustic trauma or head injury, sudden exposure to loud sounds or long durations of exposure to sounds, ear infections which are left untreated, high blood pressure, diabetes, hereditary predisposition to late-onset hearing loss, acoustic tumours, ageing (causes presbyacsis).

(d)&(e) Yes Sir. The Institute has been organizing public awareness programmes in various parts of the country on issues including prevention, early identification, intervention and rehabilitation of the hearing impaired in the country. Media awareness campaign has been taken up to help the public in terms of early identification and prevention of hearing impairment which includes the following:

1. T.V. Screening of films developed by the Institute, such as feature film on deaf child `Surmanthan`, a documentary on Prevention of hearing impairment `Suniye`.

2. Display of posters, pamphlets and public address system used to disseminate information to public on prevention of hearing impairment and importance of early identification of hearing impaired.

3. Audio cassettes containing folk songs on prevention and rehabilitation of hearing impaired.

4. Besides, exhibitions awareness programmes of information officers, media persons, school children, parents, organised workers, social workers etc.